

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05514 011046Z

22

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 W

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P 011014Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6318

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5514

MASERU FOR SCHAUFEELE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PFOR

SUBJECT: SA VISA FOR MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT PERCY SUTTON

REF: (A) MASERU 1445; (B) STATE 290672

1. I HAVE SPOKEN WITH DFA UNDERSECRETARY VAN DALSEN ABOUT PERCY SUTTON VISA. HE SAID DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO DENY THE VISA. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE INDICATED THAT DECISION WAS MADE BY MINISTER CONNIE MULDER AND "MAY HAVE BEEN CONSULTED IN ONE OF THE RECENT CABINET MEETINGS".

2. AGAIN SPEAKING PERSONALLY, VAN DALSEN RESPONDED TO MY QUESTION AS TO REASON FOR TURNDOWN BY SAYING THAT IN RECENT TV APPEARANCE MR. SUTTON HAD BEEN "FRIGHTFULLY NEGATIVE" ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA. PEOPLE WHO ASSUME SUCH PUBLIC ATTITUDES ARE NOT WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY, HE ADDED.

3. I HAVE TRIED TO GET THROUGH TO MULDER TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF RECONSIDERATION BUT SO FAR HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. WITH ATTITUDES HARDENING HERE AS A RESULT OF CRITICISM BY SENATOR CLARK IN MASERU AAI SPEECH AND FREQUENT CRITICAL IN-COUNTRY PRESS INTERVIEWS BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, ALL OF WHICH ARE BEING WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS, I SENSE THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TIME ON VISA FRONT.

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RM REQUEST THAT VAN DALSEN'S CONFIDENCE ON BACKGROUND TO
SUTTON VISA DENIAL BE PROTECTED OR THIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION
WILL DRY UP.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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